



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

November 15, 2007

Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

Rep. Shuler's SAVE Act is Introduced in the U.S. Senate ***Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR) Introduces Companion Legislation***

Washington, D.C. – Senator Mark Pryor of Arkansas today introduced companion legislation to the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE Act), originally introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Heath Shuler last week.

Senator Pryor's legislation is identical to Rep. Shuler's SAVE Act, H.R. 4088.

"The American public must have confidence that our immigration system works, and I am happy to work with Representative Shuler to see that it does," Pryor said. "That means enforcing the laws we already have on the books. Border patrol is the first step. Expanding the employee verification program is the second. And beefing up interior enforcement is the third. This legislation addresses these challenges through a fair and practical approach."

The SAVE Act is a three-part plan to drastically reduce illegal immigration -- a strict emphasis on border security, employer verification, and interior enforcement.

First, the SAVE Act addresses border security by increasing manpower and making needed technological and infrastructure improvements on America's northern and southern borders, including 8,000 new Border Patrol Agents and provides the infrastructure they need to be effective.

Second, it expands the E-Verify program to provide all employers with the tools they need to ensure that their employees are here legally. The E-Verify program is a simple, effective, and free program that allows employers to efficiently and quickly ensure that the people they hire are legally allowed to work in the U.S. The program will be phased-in over four years, beginning with the federal government, federal contractors, and employers with over 250 employees. Smaller businesses would begin using the system in a graduated manner.

Third, the SAVE Act also provides the tools, resources and infrastructure necessary to enforce existing federal laws and penalize offenders. It increases the investigative abilities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement with more agents and more training. Additionally, it provides assistance for state and local law enforcement.

"It's been an honor to work with Senator Pryor to move this legislation forward. I look forward to continuing to work with him to see the SAVE Act signed into law," said Representative Shuler.

The SAVE Act currently has 107 cosponsors in the House. The SAVE Act has been endorsed National Federation of Independent Businesses, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the National Association of Police Organizations.

###